
Torch

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Cedarville College

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CEDARVILLE TORCH

A Magazine Ministry of Cedarville College

RECREATION A CHRISTIAN VIEWPOINT



Itineraries:

Dr. Paul Dixon, President

September 6 - Second Baptist Tabernacle, Wilmington, OH (a.m.) *September 13 - Windsor Village Baptist Church, Indianapolis, IN *September 19-30th Anniversary Dinner of Washington Heights Baptist Church, Dayton, OH *September 20 - Colonial Baptist Church, New Carlisle, OH (a.m.) *September 27 - Cincinnati Reds/Houston Astros Chapel, Riverfront Stadium, Cincinnati, OH *October 4 - Vision Baptist Church, Jackson, OH *October 11 - First Baptist Church, Elyria, OH *October 29 - ACSI Ohio/Kentucky Convention, Columbus, OH *October 30 - November 1 - Muskoka Baptist Conference, Huntsville, Ontario *November 4 - Dedication Conference, Wealthy Park Baptist Church, Grand Rapids, MI *November 8 - West Hill Baptist Church, Akron, OH *November 15 - Cedar Hill Baptist Church, Cleveland, OH *December 7,8 - GARBC Council of Eighteen meetings, Schaumburg, IL *December 13 - Faith Baptist Church, Amherst, OH *December 28-31 - Informissions, Cedarville College

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Although the precise word "vacation" is not used, Rev. Mains shows from the Bible that God is quite interested in such matters. He believes that as we cooperate with the One who first conceived of break times from the work cycle, we will experience restoration to the balance He had in mind when He created us!

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by R. Eldon Brock

If more families could "come apart" for meaningful times together, fewer would "fall apart" in family breakups, notes Rev. Brock. Christian camps offer families a great vacation and stand ready to help them in their endeavor to grow in the Lord.

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The Cedarville College Family and Our Recreation

by Dr. Paul Dixon
President, Cedarville College

Every Christian family needs a time for leisure, for recreation. The pressures and rigors of our earthly journey are eased as we balance these demanding hours with periods of fun, diversion, exercise, and fellowship. All that we do must be to God's honor and glory, as Paul admonished in I Corinthians 10:31. Our recreation and fun times are no different.

The Cedarville College family places a major emphasis on extracurricular activities. Since we are a conservative institution of higher education, some think that our college standards limit us from fun experiences and enjoyment. Add to that perception our location as a rural college and some may question: "What is there to do besides study and go to chapel?" Chapel is required Monday through Friday and the academic load is heavy, but all of this is balanced with numerous student activity opportunities throughout the week and especially on weekends.

In fact, our location gives us a major advantage in fulfilling our stated objective: "To foster the student's appreciation of and participation in wholesome avocational and cultural activities." The city of Dayton is within 25 miles of Cedarville; Columbus, the capitol of Ohio, provides a multitude of cultural and recreational opportunities and is only 45 miles from our college; Cincinnati, the Queen City, is 60 miles away and offers King's Island, the Cincinnati Reds and Bengals, and marvelous restaurants. We are in a triangle of interstate highways, I-70, I-75, and I-71, which gives us easy access to these metropolitan areas.

All within ten miles of the College, Massies Creek Gorge, the Williamson Mound Park, John Bryan State Park, and the 75-foot cliffs of Clifton Gorge provide ample opportunities for relaxation and recreation. The beautiful rolling hills and tree-lined roads make for great jogging and cycling.

Most of our students, faculty, staff, and administration choose to take advantage of the numerous opportunities provided on campus. The students have 25 of their own organizations which offer different activities and fun times. The wide variety of intramural sports promotes needed breaks from the demands of studies for men and women. There are class outings as well as all-school parties, banquets, and get-togethers.

Major drama productions are presented each quarter. The annual Artist Series brings to our campus outstanding performers such as Andre-Michel Schub, Nielson and Young, Steve Green, Daniel Majeski, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, and The Ohio State University Men's Glee Club.

Fourteen intercollegiate sports provide recreation for not only scores of students who participate but also for the entire college family as Yellow Jacket fans. A home basketball game is an experience to be long remembered with our 70-piece pep band and over 2,000 fans boisterously cheering the Jackets on to victory.

Recreation is a vital part of our Cedarville College family. It should be a priority for every Christian family. May our Lord give us direction in choosing activities which not only serve us well, but which also honor Him.

Are "good works" burying you?
 Are you enjoying life less?
 Are you frantically working for Christ
 without rest?
 Have you given up laughter for God's work to
 do?
 Then you must read this article...it's written
 for YOU!

According to the Westminster Larger Catechism of 1861, the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. According to the message sent forth by many of our lives, though, the chief end of man is to work tirelessly for God at a frantic pace and not to enjoy anything until Glory. What a sad perversion of God's beautiful truth, and an even sadder commentary on the poverty we choose to experience in this life compared to the riches of the abundant life that could be ours.

As God's children, we have the indescribable pleasure of being able to know God and thus to be able to enjoy Him forever. Instead, we seem to have inadvertently adopted a value system that says what we accomplish is more important than who we are. But what does this have to do

with recreation? EVERYTHING! Everything, because recreation plays a significant role in helping develop who we are, and developing all that we are for God is one of the primary ways we can bring glory to Him.

Recreation... the very word tends to produce for many of us a discordant mixture of feelings. On the one hand, we recall the pleasant, warm memories of family vacations; the feeling of satisfaction upon completion of a hobby project; and the indescribable joy of making a hole-in-one on the golf course. But we've also had vacations that could kindly be described as "disasters," hobby projects better left unfinished, and rounds of golf that make us consider taking up checkers.

Some of us may experience feelings of guilt, embarrassment, or even self-contempt when we find ourselves fully enjoying a recreational experience and suddenly remember the sin and sorrow that fill this earth. Should we experience enjoyment when there is so much sorrow? We may even wonder if we should ask forgiveness for experiencing such exhilarating pleasure, fulfillment, and enjoyment from something that is not a part of our work. We also struggle with the "works-oriented" mindset that any extra time should really be used for something more productive and more spiritual than recreation. Just what should a Christian's attitude toward recreation be?

The term "recreation" historically stems from the Latin



by Dr. Pamela S. Diehl

**How do you
 spell relief?**

R-E-C-R-E-A-T-I-O-N

word recreatio which means "that which refreshes or restores." Most writers in the field of recreation agree that it is an activity or experience that is restorative and refreshing, and that it is done during non-working or leisure hours.

Few will argue that man has a need to be refreshed and restored. His body and mind have definite limits and he is susceptible to fatigue. Since he is created in God's image and is exhorted to be like Him, he can experience true restoration and refreshment only when he seeks it in concert with God's commands and directives.

How can we experience recreation that pleases God and therefore truly restores and refreshes? By developing the mind of Christ and viewing every aspect of our lives (including recreation) from God's perspective. The following acrostic suggests ways to shape your thinking about recreation.

RESTORE AND REFRESH. Get to know how you can truly refresh and restore the you God created -- body, mind, and spirit -- and you are well on your way to experiencing godly recreation. You will most likely discover that they are those things which cannot be bought, packaged, or marketed. They are those experiences and activities which involve active interaction with God's creation -- His creatures, His earth, His imagebearers, His universe -- and especially with God Himself.

EXPERIENCE AND EXPLORE. Make an effort to experience totally a place, a thing, an event, or a person. Add the word "explore" to your recreational efforts. Do something you've never done before; try something you've never tried before; go somewhere you've never gone before. And as you learn to explore, don't forget to explore the God who made it all and made it all possible.

CREATE. God has given us, His image-bearers, the ability to create. As children, we created often: sand castles, rocketships out of cardboard boxes, and Daniel in the lions' den on our bedroom floor amid our stuffed animals. Re-awaken that creative spark. Do it for the sake of doing it, not for the end product that might occur. As you create, grow in your appreciation of the Creator and His creation, as well as in the relationships therein.

REACH AND RISK. Dare to try. Dare to fail. Many of us are moving through life in some very safe, repetitive patterns. While routine has importance and an economy in our lives, if left permanently unchallenged, routines may become ruts, and economy may become stagnation. In his book, When I Relax I Feel Guilty, Tim Hansel shares an interesting story about the bumblebee. It seems that researchers have concluded that, due to the unfavorable relationship between the wingspan and the size and density of its body, it is aeronautically impossible for this little creature to fly. Only one problem, though: no one told the bumblebee! Are we all too willing to accept "can't"? Why not use recreational opportunities to explore some "can'ts"? We just may find that we are bumblebees, too.

ENJOY. We above all people should delight in rejoicing, and recreation should provide opportunities to explore the feeling of joy. God has given us instruction on how to be blessed (happy) and joyful. We are reminded in Proverbs 17:22 that a merry heart is good medicine. The restorative and even curative properties of laughter are being recognized more and more as science gradually discovers some of the truths given in special revelation centuries ago. Take time to laugh; take time to enjoy -- not

only in your recreation, but in every area of your life. Begin now to enjoy God forever.

ATTACH IMPORTANCE. Give recreation an appropriate place of priority and importance in your daily walk. Don't pretend you are too important in God's economy to need refreshment and restoration. Many of us live as though we are convinced that God can't make it here on earth if we don't work for Him. That's a spirit of pride. God expects us to be willing and available; He doesn't ask us to be exhausted and miserable.

TAKE TIME. Acknowledge the value of a minute's worth of recreation, or five, or fifteen. Learn to be spontaneous within the responsibility parameters of each day. Some of us need to lessen the responsibilities of each day so that time-appropriate recreation can occur. One approach is periodically to take a vacation from time. No clocks, watches, or timing devices are allowed. Just allow needs, interests, and opportunities of the moment direct your day. You may begin to break the shackles of living in the past or in the future and have a renewed appreciation for the preciousness of the present. It may help you to learn to redeem the time in a more godly manner, making appropriate time for what is really important.

INTERACT. Pursue activities that require or at least promote your interaction with them. Today, so much of our recreation takes on a very passive, uninvolved, "watch someone or something else" quality. Television is one of the most passive of experiences, yet it consumes many leisure hours of Christians and non-Christians alike. If anything, TV tends to put the mind in neutral and thus makes it vulnerable to many negative influences.

OPEN. Open your thinking to the opportunities for recreation and to the changes those experiences and activities can make in you. In doing so, you may well find a new appreciation of the you God created, making you more available to Him to bring glory to Himself.

NEED. Recognize that God honors both work and play, but neither to the exclusion of the other. Man needs to be involved in both. Mortal man needs restoration and refreshment of body, mind, and spirit -- accomplished by rest, recreation, and communion with the Father. If any of these is neglected, the whole man suffers, as does the believer's ability to glorify the Father.

Is R·E·C·R·E·A·T·I·O·N necessary? Absolutely. It's how you spell relief!

Dr. Pamela S. Diehl is Professor of Physical Education at Cedarville College and coach of the women's tennis team. Holding degrees from the University of Dayton, and The Ohio State University, she co-authored the text *Physical Fitness and the Christian: Exercising Stewardship*.

YOUR PERSONAL RECREATION INVENTORY

Have you ever wondered what to do with all your spare time? The average American has 6,832 hours of non-working time available to him/her per year! Below are 101 suggestions the editors of TORCH collected. Why not inventory your recreation experiences by checking off the ideas you have already tried. As you do, note some new ideas and mark them for future exploration. When you finish you should no longer have the excuse "I can't think of anything to do in my spare time."

101 Ways To Recreate In Your Spare Time

I've done it Never have I'll try it!

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Attend a Christian family camp with your neighbors
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Play golf with your spouse
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Walk in the park with a friend
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Get fast food to go and picnic in the park
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Walk through malls without your checkbook
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Go to flea markets with lots of money
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Ride bicycles to and from Sunday church
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Canoe to and from a campsite
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Drive slowly to relatives' houses without using the interstates
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	10. Visit friends who live a distance away and camp in their back yard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	11. Take up a craft project you've never tried before
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	12. Take a nap in a raft in your swimming pool
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	13. Attend a baseball game and get a professional player's signature
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	14. Trade stamps with a pen pal who lives in another country
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	15. Read one book per month for a year
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	16. Have a crossword puzzle party and work on them jointly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	17. Invite a conservation official to accompany your family on a hike through a state park
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	18. Try growing five varieties of plants that you've never grown before in your garden
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	19. Learn to play racquetball with your spouse or a friend
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	20. Go to the park and play basketball with whomever is on the court
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	21. Sightsee by letting your children read the maps and give travel directions
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	22. Back pack to a place you've never been before
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	23. Rent motorscooters and ride through the countryside as a family
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	24. Discover new trails with your motorbike or three-wheelers
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	25. Go game hunting....with a camera
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	26. Make a model ship out of wood using no plans
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27. Make wooden knicknacks, paint them as a family, and sell them
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	28. Reserve one night per week for a family night of games
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	29. Cross stitch your family tree
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30. Learn to keep score as your spouse or friend bowls
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	31. Rearrange your house while your husband is away
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	32. Umpire a little league ball game
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	33. Organize an outdoor block party for your neighborhood
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34. Learn to tole paint
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	35. Take a walk in the rain with someone
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	36. Schedule to do anything your child wants to do once a week
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	37. Invite yourself to help paint your neighbor's house
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	38. Meet a friend at the lakeside just to talk (Each of you brings a rocking chair)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	39. Run in a local marathon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40. Take pictures and enter them in a photo contest
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	41. Visit a local air show
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	42. Take a tour of an airport
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	43. Ride on an old-fashioned train
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44. Make a painting of your house

I've done it	Never have	I'll try it!	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	45. Make your own Christmas wrapping paper using brown wrapping paper and water colors
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46. Visit the nearby birthplaces of any U.S. Presidents
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	47. Arrange for your family to spend a day on a farm
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	48. Build a model airplane that will really fly
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	49. Once a month go to a different restaurant
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50. Attend an opera
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	51. Learn to play a musical instrument in time to give a recital at the next family reunion
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	52. Research your family heritage
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	53. Collect an antique from each of your relatives
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	54. As a family, develop a play and perform it at a rest home
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	55. Visit each state in the Union before your children are all over 18 years old
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	56. Take a cruise that includes a Christian speaker
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	57. Restore a jalopy with your son
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	58. Tour the state capital with your local congressman
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	59. Visit a restaurant and eat something you've never tried before
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	60. Write for old snapshots of relatives and put them in a scrapbook for showing at the next family reunion
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	61. Learn a hymn as a family and sing it in church
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	62. Make your own table dishes and cups out of clay
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	63. Organize a checkers tournament in your neighborhood
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	64. Rent a ride in a hot air balloon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	65. Race your son at a go cart track
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	66. See who can design a paper airplane that will fly the farthest
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	67. Boat on a lake you've never been on before
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	68. Collect old clothes with which your daughters can put on a fashion show
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	69. Mow a golf course in your back yard and have a whiffle ball golf tournament
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	70. Visit an automobile factory
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	71. Parachute jump on the back of an instructor or by yourself if you're brave
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	72. Take your first-ever airplane ride in a small plane and fly over your house taking pictures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	73. Camp out and make your own shelter out of natural materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	74. Take a three-day bike hike and camp out along the way
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	75. Go whitewater rafting
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	76. Tour a local television station
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	77. Camp out and live off the land for at least 3 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	78. Make a frisbee golf course in your back yard
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	79. Find 5 different ways to make pizza without using pizza dough
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	80. Visit the zoo and draw the animals
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	81. Organize a pingpong tournament in your neighborhood
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	82. Try to ride a rollercoaster without holding on
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	83. Learn to sail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	84. Make your own putt-putt golf course out of found materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	85. Build a kite and fly it on a windy day
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	86. Learn about insects and collect them for display
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	87. Organize a volleyball game with other career people your age
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	88. Tour a factory that makes a food item
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	89. Tour a local bank and then a U.S. mint
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	90. Visit a ship while it is in dock
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	91. Attend a play at a local college and eat in the cafeteria
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	92. Follow a visit to a dairy with a tour of an ice cream factory
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	93. Attend a department store fashion show
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	94. Make a soapbox derby racer
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	95. Conduct a chess game with a friend by mail
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	96. Organize a road rally using Scripture clues
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	97. Have a block party with softball and carry-in picnic
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	98. Browse in your public library
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	99. Take a photography class at your local community college
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	100. Plant a window box herb garden
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	101. Take the family to an art museum

by David R. Mains, director of Chapel of the Air radio broadcast originating in Wheaton, Illinois.
This article was taken from his pamphlet "The Best Vacation You've Ever Had."

The Best Vacation You've Ever Had !



Vacation. I remember well the last day of school before summer vacation when I was growing up. Running out of the building we would shout (from a safe distance), "No more classes, no more books, no more teacher's dirty looks!" In retrospect, I wonder what the teachers back inside were shouting among themselves!

For most of us adults in the work force, those months of vacation from school have been reduced to a few weeks off from work, but the anticipation is still there.

We dream of the perfect vacation: a favorite trout stream in Montana, a trip to Disney World with the children, two weeks of beautiful Hawaii, a cabin by a secluded lake, just some time to putter around the house with no outside pressures.

What does God think about vacations? Had Jesus lived longer, would He have worked out a vacation schedule for the twelve? Is a luxury cruise in the Caribbean less Christian a vacation than a trip to the Holy Land?

Is there anything in Scripture about vacations? They are mentioned in labor contracts, travel magazines, slick tour brochures, but not the Scriptures -- or are they?

In Scripture God shows Himself to be quite interested in matters such as vacations. Granted, that precise word isn't used, but I believe there is a basic principle in the Bible.

For example, Leviticus 23 lists the appointed Old Testament feasts of the Lord. Weekly, there was to be a sabbath rest from labor and a time of REcreating. "Six days shall work be done, but on the Sabbath, you shall do no work."

Sometimes I'm afraid we get the feeling that God's sabbath plan called for a dour legalism. By the time of Christ's appearance, the sabbath had become just that rather than what God had originally intended. Christ demonstrated the true spirit of the sabbath and

captured the statement of the prophet Isaiah who called the sabbath a delight.

In addition to the weekly sabbath, yearly Jewish feasts included serious times like Passover and joyous and festive occasions such as the one day Feast of First Fruits when the men brought the offerings of their harvests to Jerusalem and were met at the boundaries of the city by the priests and Levites. Pentecost was a time of rejoicing with family and with unfortunate classes of the community such as widows and orphans.

The Feast of Booths or Tabernacles sounds like something modern day camping enthusiasts might have enjoyed, as the Israelites used palm and willow branches to make booths in which they lived for a week.

Scripture also speaks of times of family celebration which were not religious-based. Sheepshearing, weddings, and national holidays like the birthday of a king were joyous occasions which lasted sometimes as long as a week.

So they didn't have two-week vacations like we do now, and with travel being as primitive as it was in those days, they certainly could not have gone through New England in two weeks! But these occasions I've mentioned were intensely celebrative.

You see, the Hebrews were not ascetics -- an austere self-denying people. They danced and feasted and laughed and cried and were rich in their tradition. Was it not Jesus Himself who said, "The Son of Man came eating and drinking."

Woven into the very fabric of the life of the chosen people of God was this regular need for REcreation and recreation. And we can assume that the Lord not only saw the value of breaks in the work routine, but went so far as to establish such times and insisted on their being observed.

How about your vacation? If your vacation is for you a time of REcreation and recreation, I'm quite certain that God will have no problem with it. In fact, He'd want this year's vacation to be the best one you've ever known.

Now what do I mean by REcreation?

Well, what I think of when I use that term is being restored to the balance the Lord had in mind when He made me. So a break from the routine of labor, whether it be for a weekend or a once-a-year event, could be an occasion for restoration physically, spiritually, mentally, or socially--depending on one's needs.

A pastor who is involved continually with spiritual matters may do well to think primarily in terms of the physical when considering his restorative needs. A grade school teacher, on the other hand, might be wise to think through how to restore herself socially or spiritually. A Christian construction worker could use part of his vacation to catch up on reading. Consulting the Lord regarding what is most needed for balance does have value.

Why not make God your vacation consultant? Even if you already have plans as to where you'll be going, talk with Him about what you need in order to truly experience REcreation. As the Originator of fitting breaks of various kinds for His people, I believe His thoughts could be of real help to you.

He might say, "Ralph and Betty, you're always

pushing yourselves too hard. Don't drive yourselves during vacation, too. Slow down some. REcreate."

"Pat, you seldom have taken time to restore spiritually. Plan for some good Christian input this vacation. Visit a Christian bookstore before you take off and schedule yourself to be near a good church on those Sundays away."

"Pete, you're with non-Christians all the time. More experience with other believers would do you some good. Why not check out some of the exceptional Bible conferences around?"

Of course I'm just making these up. But what I'm suggesting is that you talk to the Lord in prayer as you lay out for Him your plans.

That's in contrast to assuming that God would do well to keep his nose out of your vacation thoughts. Perhaps all your life you've wanted to have a week at a first-class golf resort and you're going this year, come what may.

Maybe God agrees. But it's strange that vacation plans for many people are a matter they have never prayed about. And if past vacations haven't been restorative for you, why not give my suggestion a try?

Ask God: how do I REcreate as well as recreate this year? (By recreation I mean have fun.) But where do I need balance, Father? Is my greatest need spiritual, physical, social, mental? Help me please!

In this context of talking over your vacation plans with the Lord, be assured that God wants you to experience the best vacation you've ever known.

He doesn't want you to feel guilty about spending reasonable monies for vacationing even though people are starving in Africa. Breaks from the work routine of people are important to Him. But then God doesn't want to be totally left out of any important area of your life -- and that includes vacationing.

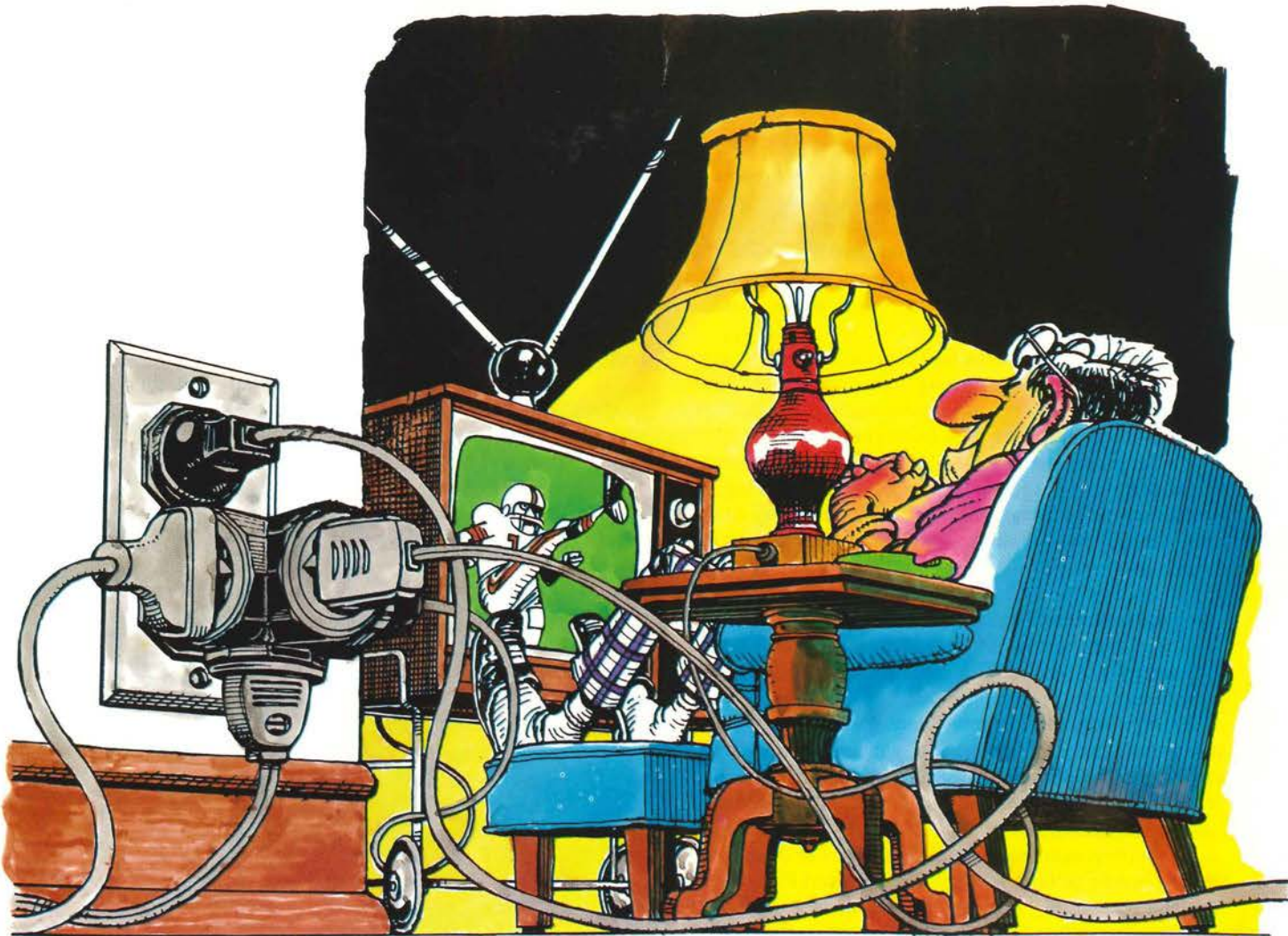
So at least talk with God about your plans.

In Luke 2:52 we see God rearing His Son so that Christ increased in wisdom (mental), in stature (physical), and in favor with God (spiritual) and man (social).

I believe that kind of balance is how the Lord wants us to mature as well. And evenings, weekends, days off, holidays and vacations afford us time to become all God wants us to be.

Let us then cooperate with this One Who was first to conceive of break times from the normal work cycle and Who, when consulted, makes all of life better.





WHAT WIVES WISH THEIR HUSBANDS KNEW ABOUT HAVING *FUN*

by
Ernestine Faulkner
(Pat Dixon)

Dear Mildred,

Well, another weekend has bit the dust, Mildred, and my "couch potato" husband had his usual level of fun. Fred lay cheering his Tampa Bay Buccaneers on to another defeat. His fun and recreation even surpassed mine by a small hurrah. I actually sorted the wash and found a mate to every sock. I don't know what I'm going to do. We never do anything exciting--never have fun any more. I wish someone would write a book on *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Having Fun*.

Of course, I should have known better, Mildred. Our three year dating-fun quotient wasn't too high either. That's if you don't count his playing "Moon Over Miami" on his bass clarinet on my front porch every Saturday night.

Listen, maybe I should write that book myself. You know what I'd say to my husband?

Having fun together is:

- doing the unexpected on an expected day.
- having a friend pack my suitcase and take me on a surprise weekend trip when I thought I was just going to McDonald's for a Friday night treat.
- going shopping and trying on a new look just for fun.
- taking a back road instead of the interstate on a trip—oh, yes, planning for three stops ahead of time.
- washing the car and seeing who gets the first errant spray of water.
- calling the best man at our wedding with whom we haven't talked in eight years.
- reading aloud to each other in the backyard swing.
- trying one of my hobbies for a change. After all, I didn't ask for my Christmas golf clubs.
- challenging each other to achieve and maintain fifteen sit-ups each night.
- riding tandem on a bicycle in the countryside.
- redecorating a room.
- letting me cut his hair instead of that ex-Marine in the shopping center.
- teaching a Sunday school class of three-year-olds together.
- learning a foreign language together.
- planting a prized hybrid rose bush.
- adopting a young married couple to nurture in the Lord.

- having him volunteer to wash my hair.
- hiding a "for-no-special-occasion" present somewhere in the house and leaving a trail of clues.
- having a dress up, candle-lit dinner in the dining room every Thursday evening.
- planning, designing and making a small craft item for an elderly neighbor.
- looking for the humor in a day's work and sharing it at dinner.
- keeping a diary together of the year's blessings, lessons, defeats, etc.
- having the mothers-in-law visit the same week.
- rowing across a placid lake on a cool, summer evening.
- getting into the car, taking a ride, and shutting out "Ma Bell."
- baiting my fishing hook with that awful catalpa worm.
- NOT listening to "Moon Over Miami" again for the rest of my life.

I can just see it now. Mildred, do you think that Fred and I could produce a series of films, "Focus on Family Fun," or promote a series of national seminars? Listen to this: Cedarville University presents Fred and Ernestine Faulkner's "Basic Adult Fun" or "Family Life Funinars." Why, in three years, I could be at the National Booksellers Convention or the local Zondervan Bookstore autographing a new best seller: *What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Having Fun*.

Well, I've got to hush now.

Your friend,

Ernestine



CHRISTIAN FAMILY CAMPING

by Rev. R. Eldon Brock

Family vacation! Strain and drain or growth and investment? Is your vacation a strain on family relations and a drain on the family finances? Or is it an opportunity for spiritual growth and an investment in family togetherness?

Christ said to His disciples after their wearying itinerant ministry, "Come apart...and rest awhile" (Mark 6:31). As this invitation applies to members of Christ's "family," I think it should apply to our families, too. If more families could "come apart" for really meaningful times, fewer would "fall apart" in family breakups.

Family vacations may take only a small portion of the annual calendar, but a well-planned vacation can be a special event that helps to hold families together for years to come. The planning, the actual experience, and then the reminiscing of the good times allows for family interaction and creates an interdependence which is often missing in our busy and self-centered society.

While good family relationships are not dependent on a vacation, I would like to suggest family camp as a

special experience for your family.

An established camp or conference provides your basic needs of housing and food, a flexible schedule, and special activities for the whole family.

Recently I asked people to tell me some benefits of family camp which appealed to them. I think their responses will encourage you to consider the potential of Christian family camping for your family.

1. The cost is usually much less than many other types of vacations. Since one knows in advance what the cost will be, there's no impulse spending.
2. There's more time for family fellowship. Mother is free from cooking responsibilities, and even with small children to care for, the benefits of fellowship and inspiration for her will offset the few inconveniences of the camp environment. The same goes for Dad. He can escape the pressures of his daily job and even put aside for awhile many of the cares of the home duties in order to spend extra time with the family.



The Psalmist said, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). At camp the time is available to practice this admonition. Find that private place by the lake or in the woods for the family to have a devotional time with God.

3. Christian camping is an escape from the confusion of the world's amusements. True, some of the amusement park/carnival-type thrills leave lasting impressions, but are they consistent with the admonition in Philippians 4:8 to think on what is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report? One mother responded that, at family camp, it was such a relief to allow her children freedom to move about the camp without fear of exposure to immoral influence or possibility of harm. More and more families are concerned about protecting their children from people with evil intentions.
4. The outdoor setting provides so many things to do that only the most indifferent person would find it dull. Families can create fun apart from TV, radios, video games, tape players, and comic books. Today, adults and children alike are being robbed of the excitement of using their own initiative to have a personal sense of achievement and use free time meaningfully.

Interpersonal relationships are built through doing things the whole family enjoys. These things last. Being at camp will allow time to play with the children, to help them develop an interest in creating fun from natural or simple things. Children will see Mom and Dad as real people who love their kids enough to want to spend time with them. How about a nature walk? Get excited over something the child notices for the first time. Be an expert nature guide to the children with just an "Oh, let's see what you've found." Help them play in the water, learn to fish, practice hitting a ball, prepare a family skit or a family banner for a camp parade. Family participation begun in a camp can be carried back home to be incorporated into the more routine schedules.

5. Chapel speakers give biblical instruction on a walk with God as it relates to personal and family life. Even those who have heard similar messages say they find new help in evaluating their family in the different setting. There is always room for improvement.

The group sessions often are divided into classes for various age groups. This is a meaningful experience to the children and provides some relief for the parents. Children need time to be involved with others of their age under staff leadership. A new voice in a different setting contributes to their learning process.

Be careful, though, of a program that tends to separate the members of the family too much of the time. Sometimes the tendency to take the natural way of departmentalizing all the age groups means that the only real family activity of the week is the travel to and from camp.

6. The informal Christian fellowship with other families of like values is a special investment of

time. There is time to discuss a variety of family issues, sometimes for answers and sometimes just for encouragement by finding that others are doing things the same way. Children benefit from this interaction as they see that there are other families very much like their own.

As you consider family camp, you are considering an investment in your most valuable resource: your family. And as the family is strengthened, so is the local church and the cause of Christ.

Family camp requires very little preparation. Housing is available, but those who enjoy a travel trailer or tenting usually can find a place to set up.

Mom and Dad should prepare the family for the camp experience by "talking up" the whole idea. Plan together what things the family will want to do together. The planning and anticipation intensifies the potential of the experience.

While at camp, do things that will help retain the benefits. Pray and work for spiritual growth in the family. Together set some new goals for the ensuing months following camp. Back home use illustrations from camp in current teaching. Photographs and craft projects will help to remind everyone of the new friends and the good times.

While it may seem easier to go to family camp with younger children, camps recognize the needs of teens, and they can have a good time, too.

As Christian parents seek to produce children who will live to the glory of God in a society which will seek to thwart their every effort, Christian family camps stand ready to help in that endeavor. As God is honored, this kind of vacation can have eternal benefits.

Rev. Eldon Brock brought 20 years of pastoral experience to the Regular Baptist Camp at Lake Ann, Michigan where he has served as administrator for 16 years. He is Executive Administrator of Regular Baptist Camps of Michigan, Inc., Chairman of the National Association of Regular Baptist Camps, and a board member of the Foundation for Excellence.

Associate Editor's Note:

As a special Christmas present in 1985, my husband and I invited each of our three children and their families to join us during the family camp week the following summer at Scioto Hills Baptist Camp in southern Ohio. The Lord arranged the work schedules and children's activities so that all 13 of us were able to go: grandpa and grandma, sons and daughters, and five grandchildren with another on the way. The young families took over the planning with great enthusiasm. All who were able memorized Romans 6 before camp, and each adult had a prescribed number of pounds to lose! We talked about family camp for eight months and, when the eventful departure day finally arrived, we drove caravan to the camp. That week, the Lord heaped blessings upon us and brought us very close to Himself and to each other. Fellow grandparents, I heartily recommend that you consider this type of vacation for your loved ones.

Campus News

FRIENDS GIVE LIBRARY CHALLENGE GRANT

As the \$4.35 million new Centennial Library nears completion, special friends of the College have offered to help complete the funding of the structure. They are extending a challenge grant of \$350,000 which will be given to the College if other gifts and commitments for the Library total \$4 million by January 1988. Gifts committed before the first of the year for payment in 1988 also can be counted toward this goal. If donors are employed by companies which match gifts, the matching contribution can also count toward completing the Centennial Library.

TORCH readers may have an important part in this Fund for a Quality Finish. The college needs to receive about \$600,000 to complete the project and to fulfill the challenge. Will you help today? **Please use the envelope enclosed with this TORCH issue to send your gift to the College.**

If you desire more information, please contact: Development Department, Cedarville College, Box 601, Cedarville, OH 45314 or phone (513)766-2211.

CEDARVILLE GRADUATES 400

During the 91st annual commencement exercises, Cedarville College graduated its largest class and conferred two honorary doctorates. Recipient of the Doctor of Divinity degree was Milo Thompson, eighth president of Baptist Bible College and Seminary, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. Dr. Clifford Johnson, Academic Vice President of Cedarville College, received the Doctor of Humanities degree. Cedarville president, Dr. Paul Dixon, addressed the 400 graduates and an audience of 3,000.

108 IN SUMMER MINISTRIES

This summer 108 members of the Cedarville College family are taking their Christian service around the globe.

Missionary Internship Service teams are ministering in the countries of Brazil, Australia, Philippines, England, China, Peru, and Niger. Seventy-five individuals are involved in MIS.

The following traveling teams participated as a group at the national GARBC Conference in Ames, Iowa, June 22-26, and then began their summer tours of ministries in churches and camps in the U.S:

Abundant Life Singers -- the midwestern states

Swordbearers -- the southern states

Kingsmen Quartet -- the northeastern states

Master's Puppets -- the Midwest and New York State

CHANGES ON CAMPUS

The summer months are always busy ones for the Maintenance Department, and Director Leigh Hunt reports that more than the usual amount of renovation, construction, and repair is going on this year.

In addition to the retrofit of the vacated library building into a new facility for the Business Administration Department, Hunt relates that the Admissions Department along with a new visitors' center is moving into new offices in College Center. New offices for Counseling Service and for Chancellor Jeremiah are being built on the middle floor of Collins, while new offices and broadcast studios for Communication Arts are going into the top floor.

NEW BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FACILITY READY FOR FALL

As soon as the College family moved the books to the new Centennial Library, workmen began the retrofit of the previous library building into a new facility for the Department of Business Administration.

Business is Cedarville's largest department with over 450 majors. The new building is designed as a tool to help introduce the students to corporate culture, as well as to provide them with a technical business education.

Scheduled for use fall quarter, the flexible 27,000 square foot structure includes a corporate conference center, four conference-seminar rooms, 12 classrooms to accommodate groups of varying sizes, 15 faculty offices, lounges, and a reception area. Computer assistance in each office and classroom facilitates the technology-based problem solving and the computer integration which already exist throughout the business administration curriculum. The building also houses the Career Planning and Placement Center.





DRS. WOOD, JOHNSON IN NEW POSTS

Dr. Duane Wood will assume the duties of Academic Vice President fall quarter 1987. Replacing Dr. Clifford Johnson, who will become Assistant to the President, Dr. Wood comes to Cedarville from the University of Southern Maine, where he has been Assistant Provost and Professor of Management. He previously served there as Dean of the School of Business, Economics, and Management. He held teaching and administrative positions at Central Michigan University, University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh, and Indiana University, and was in engineering supervision at Indiana Bell Telephone Company. Dr. Wood holds degrees from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Butler University, and Indiana University. He has published widely in professional journals, has presented numerous papers, and has served as a management consultant for several financial institutions, corporations, and hospitals.

Dr. Johnson has served as chief academic officer of Cedarville for 23 of his 25 years at the College. During his tenure, he was instrumental in structuring the teacher education program, in securing accreditation for the College, and in introducing a multitude of programs, the most recent being nursing. Johnson has encouraged study abroad programs and extension courses from the College in other cities.

A native of Tacoma, Washington, he is a veteran of World War II and holds degrees from Western Washington State University and the University of Washington. At the 91st commencement exercises on June 6, Cedarville College conferred upon Dr. Johnson the Doctor of Humanities degree.

"Preacher, Preach My Funeral."

Pastor Bill Baker closed his Bible and noted that the clock on his desk indicated five minutes past noon.

"Lunchtime," he thought. "I'm ready."

Then the phone rang.

The voice was a familiar one. It belonged to an old friend, a handball partner he had met 10 years before when he pastored in Dayton, Ohio.

"George, how are you?" Baker asked.

The caller blurted, "Preacher, I want you to preach my funeral!"

"What?" Baker responded. "George, what's the matter?"

"Preacher, I've been battling cancer for two years now, and the doctors tell me there's nothing else they can do," said George. "They tell me I've only a short time to live and I've begun to make arrangements...." His voice cracked. "I want you to preach my funeral."

Baker agreed quickly and tried to give as much comfort as he could before they said goodbye.

They had met at the YMCA in Dayton during a handball tournament. In those days George was robust and a pretty good handball player, but the Baptist preacher defeated him in three straight games! Preachers weren't supposed to be athletic -- or so George thought.

They played more matches afterwards and a friendship quickly developed.

A year later George's marriage developed problems. He asked his preacher friend for advice and Baker told him about the best Friend anyone could have -- Jesus Christ. George asked the Savior to forgive him for his sins and to take control of his life. His wife became a Christian a short time later and their marriage healed.

The friends parted when God directed Baker to pastor a church in another state.

Two days after Baker agreed to officiate his friend's funeral, the son called to say that his dad had died.

Baker was saddened to have lost an old friend. "But He's with Jesus now, his best Friend," he thought. And this brought peace to his mind.

This story tells of a preacher who lived his Christianity at work and in his play. His friend George is eternally grateful that he did.

Friend, do YOU need a Friend? An old hymn proclaims, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." The Bible states, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

For more information about how you too can know this Friend, the Lord Jesus Christ, please contact:

Harold Green
Vice President for Campus Ministries
Cedarville College
P.O. Box 601
Cedarville, OH 45314
(513)766-2211

I Left California

For Cedarville College

I love California — the beach, the mountains, and the desert are just minutes from my home in San Bernardino. But I left California to go to Cedarville College.

I'm getting an excellent Christian education at Cedarville — one that will prepare me for almost any career. And I'm growing spiritually because the Bible is really taken seriously.

I'm amazed at the many Christian service opportunities like helping at the Dayton Detention Center and traveling with a gospel team to Australia.

My professors have lots of experience and teach from a biblical perspective. They're so willing to help or just to talk!

Chapel speakers from around the world bring us interesting and practical messages. Being at the College has made me more confident in my faith and has given me the desire to know even more about God.

Yes, I love my home, but for my college education, I'm glad I left California for Cedarville College.

Lisa, please send me a free viewbook.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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